Infrastructure requirements in Eleventh Plan

532. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether physical infrastructure requirements in the Eleventh Plan period are estimated to exceed $ 340 bn.;

(b) how much of this has been converted into concrete projects; and

(c) how many of these are likely to be projects by the Private Sector or with Private Sector participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Eleventh Five Year Plan is under formulation. A preliminary macro level exercise has been done by the Planning Commission to estimate the requirement of investment for physical infrastructure during the plan period. The estimates have not yet been finalized.

(b) and (c) Since Eleventh Five Year Plan period has just started and the Plan is under formulation, it is too early to quantify the concrete projects implemented with or without private sector participation.

Decline in poverty

533. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of poor Indians declined by 4.3 per cent in the five years from March 2000, but there are still 24 crore people living in acute want in an economy that has grown at nearly 8 per cent over the period;

(b) whether the National Sample Survey report also reveals that the decline in poverty was comparatively much steep in rural areas where the percentage of people living below poverty line fell to 21.8 per cent in 2004-05 from 27.1 per cent; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take for removing the poverty in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakadwala Committee). Based on this, the poverty ratio (*i.e.*, the percentage of people living below the poverty line) has been estimated for the years 1999-2000 and 2004-05 using the NSS consumer expenditure data of the 55th and 61st Rounds respectively. The poverty ratio in 1999-2000 is estimated as 26.1 per cent for the country as a whole, *i.e.*, rural and urban areas taken together. The corresponding poverty ratio in 2004-05, based on MRP consumption distribution (Mixed Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for five non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses are collected from 365-day recall period and the consumption data for the remaining items are collected from 30-day recall period), is estimated as 21.8 per cent. Therefore, the poverty ratio declined by 4.3 percentage points between 1999-2000 and

2004-05. The number of poor on this basis is estimated as 23.85 crore in 2004-05.

(b) The poverty ratio in the rural areas fell to 21.8 per cent in 2004-05 from 27.1 per cent in 1999-2000 as compared to 21.7 per cent in 2004-05 from 23.6 per cent in 1999-2000 in the urban areas.

(c) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty: (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and asset building for the poor. A number of programmes/ schemes have been introduced by the Government from time to time to improve the conditions of the poor people living below the poverty line in rural and urban areas.

Gap between rich and poor

534. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the gap between the rich and those below poverty line is increasing;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to alleviate poverty which is a major challenge before the country today; and

(c) whether Government are monitoring that the funds allocated for alleviating poverty are reaching both proper person and not into wrong hands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the number of people living below and above the poverty line. It does not estimate separately the number of rich people.

The per capita consumption expenditure of the people below and above the poverty line estimated from the two latest comparable large sample survey of consumer expenditure of the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), which relate to the years 1993-94 (NSS 50th Round) and 2004-05 (NSS 61st Round) are given below.

Consumption Expenditure of People Below and above the Poverty Line
(Rs. Per person per month)

Year	Rural BPL	Rural APL	Gap (APL to BPL Ratio)	Urban BPL	Urban APL	Gap (APL to BPL Ratio)
1993-94 (NSS 50th Round)	159.18	353.64	2.22	212.82	575.41	2.70
2004-05 (NSS 61st Round)	286.13	666.67	2.33	416.14	1272.69	3.06

N.B. BPL = Below the Poverty Line; APL = Above the Poverty Line